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Ms. Miriam Lau
 Legislative Councillor
 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
 of the People's Republic of China

Dear Miriam,

Banning of idling vehicles with running engines

We refer to the consultation session held on 6th December 2007 pertaining to the government's proposed measures requiring that running engines of idling vehicles be switched off and wish to respond as follows:

We are pleased to advise that there is no idling of container trucks in the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals.

After entering the Kwai Tsing Container Terminal, trucks without pre-bookings park at designated parking spaces so that the driver can obtain the "container movement slip" or "SMS" advising him of the location for pick up or drop off in the yard of the appropriate container. Truckers will switch off the engine whilst parked in the area. There are no other instances in the container terminals where idling may occur. Trucks are directed to yard and quay cranes for container lifting on a just-in-time basis (i.e. a moving queue of four to six trucks per crane). An external truck picking up or dropping off a container will immediately leave the yard. Internal trucks moving containers between the quay and yard cranes are allocated by shift so as to match the scheduled number of container moves during that period. Consequently, these trucks are continuously active.

The new legislation shall not consider these trucks which are queuing for loading and unloading of containers in container terminals as idling vehicles.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Eddy Ma
 General Manager - Operations